

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 11787 252355Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O 262352Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2224

S E C R E T MOSCOW 11787

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY READ FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: MAJOR TECHNICAL PENETRATION OF EMBASSY MOSCOW

1. ASSUME SY HAS BRIEFED YOU ON DETAILS OF MAJOR PENETRATION OF EMBASSY PREMISES DISCOVERED TODAY. WE FACE URGENT AND CRITICAL DECISION WHETHER TO ATTEMPT TO REMOVE CABLING AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FROM PORTION OF TUNNEL WHICH IS OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF EMBASSY TERRITORY. WE CONSIDER IT PROBABLE, BUT NOT ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN, THAT THE SOVIETS ARE AWARE OF OUR DISCOVERY. NEVERTHELESS, OUR PEOPLE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY CAN RETRIEVE MUCH OF THE CABLING WITHOUT MAJOR PHYSICAL DANGER (THERE IS WITHOUT QUESTION SOME DANGER INVOLVED) IF THEY DO SO TONIGHT.

2. TECHNICIANS CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO RETRIEVE FOLLOWING FROM SOVIET END OF TUNNEL TO DETERMINE PURPOSE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM:

A. SECTION OF EACH OF 3 CABLES WHICH RUN FROM METAL PLATE UP TUNNEL, AND INTO SOVIET APARTMENT HOUSE. THESE ARE BELIEVED TO BE RF CABLES BUT MAY CONCEIVABLY BE POWER CABLES.

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B. DEVICE (PROBABLY COUPLER) IN PLASTIC BAG WHERE TRIP WIRES AND SOME CABLING TERMINATE.

C. SECTION OF EACH OF TWO CABLES EXITING TUNNEL ROOF SEVERAL FEET IN FRONT OF METAL BARRIER.

3. I AM INFORMED THAT THE CABLE CAN BE CUT WITHOUT DANGER TO PERSON CUTTING. RETRIEVAL OF PLASTIC BAG WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY ATTACHING ROPE AND PULLING FROM OUR END WHEN ALL PERSONNEL ARE OUTSIDE TUNNEL, IN CASE THE TRIP WIRE SHOULD ACTIVATE EXPLOSIVE OR GAS.

4. ASIDE FROM PHYSICAL RISK, WHICH IS PROBABLY ACCEPTABLE IF RECOVERY OF ITEMS IS CONSIDERED CRUCIAL, THERE IS OF COURSE THE POLITICAL RISK INVOLVED IN REMOVING OBJECTS FROM SOVIET TERRITORY. INASMUCH AS ALL OF THIS EQUIPMENT APPEARS TO BE A PART OF A SYSTEM WHICH HAS FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED EMBASSY TERRITORY. A DECISION TO REMOVE WOULD PROBABLY BE DEFENSIBLE, IF THE SOVIETS SHOULD COMPLAIN. HOWEVER, THIS IS A QUESTION OF SUFFICIENT GRAVITY THAT I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE DECIDED AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL. IF IT WERE MY DECISION, I WOULD GIVE IT A TRY.

5. IF WE ARE TO PROCEED, WE MUST HAVE INSTRUCTIONS NO LATER THAN 6:00 A.M. MOSCOW TIME (11:00 PM EST).MATLOCK

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